- Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.
- Supplementary nutrition is no longer confined to the beneficiaries of BPL families only.
- Better convergence with the schemes of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Elementary Education and Literacy etc.

Child Development Scheme

2563. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to introduce the child development scheme on the pattern of Scandinavian countries for the nourishment of a child for his/her birth till the age of six years;

(b) if so, by when and how far this scheme shall improve the mind and health of a child; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India is already administering a centrally sponsored scheme *viz.* the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, which aims at improving the nutritional status of children. Besides children in the age group of 0-6 years, the scheme also targets pregnant women and lactating mothers as the nutritional status of a child is inextricably linked with that of the mother. The scheme is being run from about 7.45 lakhs AWCs spread all across the country at present. Government has also sanctioned 1.88 lakh AWCs in the last financial year which are expected to be functional this year. Besides ICDS,

Government is implementing following Schemes also which have a direct bearing on the nutritional status of children:

- Reproductive and Child Health Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- Iron and Folic Acid and Vitamin-A Supplementation Programme (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).

Percentage of Children

2564. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of children of age 0 to 5 years in different States and Union Territories;

(b) the percentage of the children between 3 to 5 years of age not going to Pre-primary institutes;

(c) the role of Government in ensuring school education for all the children and the target year for achievement of this goal; and

(d) the main reasons for drop-outs of the children and the prescriptions of remedy by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) As per 2001 census the percentage of children of 0-5 years of age is 13.4 of the total population/State/UT wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Pre-Primary education is one of the six services included in the package of services under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. As on 31.12.2005, 23,764 lakh children (3-6 years) were receiving pre-school education under the ICDS Scheme.

Pre-primary education is also being provided by schools in the private sector. The coverage of children by these schools is not being monitored at present.